



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Near Southeast Community

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National Cherry Blossom call box art. Funded by the Friends of River Park.

Call Box Art Unveiled

By Lida Churchville

On Saturday, April 11, fourteen renovated police and fire call boxes were introduced to our community by representatives from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's History Task Force, its Call Box Committee, The Maryland Brass Band, the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the Earth Conservation Corps, and fantastic speakers. Painted in 2007 by Earth Conservation Corps members to reflect the marine blue of our waterfront, the light blue of our sky, and the pink of our springtime cherry blossoms, the completed call boxes now frame award-winning artwork collected by the National Cherry Blossom Festival over a period of nearly 20 years.

Pictures of the fourteen "Cherry Blossom" call boxes with a map of their Southwest DC locations from the corner of 14th Street and Independence Avenue to the waterfront location at 7th and Maine make it possible for residents and tourists to take a "Cherry Blossom tour" of Southwest. These completed call box icons, representing nearly half of the police and fire call boxes in Southwest, will forever remind residents and tourists that Southwest DC is the home of the cherry blossoms. Through the efforts of many, Southwest has achieved a neighborhood identity through words, music, flowers and art.

Our next call box will be unveiled

Continued on Page 7

New Fire Station, Retail for SW

By Jane Jorgensen

Mayor Adrian Fenty announced on April 6 that the District has selected E Street Development, a construction consortium, to build two new mixed-use buildings totaling 500,000 sq. ft. on a pair of District-owned parcels in Southwest. As part of the project, the development team will erect a new state-of-the-art fire station for Engine Co. 13, offices, and retail space.

The first building to go up will be a 10-story building at the southwest corner of 4th & E Streets that will house the new fire station on the ground floor. Its main doors will open onto 4th St., and commercial office space will be located above. Construction is slated to begin next year on the site, which is currently a parking lot.

This building will provide 3,000 square feet of community space, some of which will be dedicated to Kid Power, an after-school program which works with students from Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson schools, for a Civics Lab which will have computers and facilities for cooking and presentations.

When Engine Co. 13 has relocated to the new fire station, the existing fire station at 5th & E Sts. will be demolished and a new 9-story building will rise on the site. This office building will also have ground-floor retail including a café run by the non-profit DC Central Kitchen, which will provide job training.

E Street Development was one of three teams that submitted bids for the project. The project selection committee met under the auspices of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development on March 12, where your writer, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Jane Jorgensen

(District 6D01), participated as a non-voting member in the deliberations to choose a project from the three proposals. She presented a written list of community concerns to the selection committee, based on suggestions made at a public meeting held at Hogate's on



A rendering of the New Fire Station by E Street Development.

February 25, where developers presented their proposals to Southwest residents.

Additional comments by community members were also included in the list presented to the selection committee, for which the committee members expressed appreciation. The needs expressed included: job training and employment for community members and using community-owned businesses in all phases of the project, support for high levels of sustainable and green development, programs for community youth, and the desire for aesthetically pleasing buildings.

ANC6D appreciates the responsiveness

Continued on Page 2

Anonymous Donor Offers \$5,000 to RPF

By Thelma D. Jones

A \$5,000 matching pledge by an anonymous donor re-energized an audience worried about the viability of River Park Friends (RPF) during its March annual meeting. Announced by RPF Treasurer C.W. Hargrave during a spirited discussion on the future of the organization, the consensus was that "River Park Friends should continue serving the worthiest and most urgent needs of the community".

Though small in stature, the charitable organization is big on making a difference in the community. To date, it has awarded grants totaling about \$60,000 for an annual average of about \$7000.

Board President Coralie Farlee provided

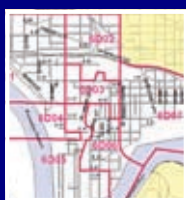
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River Park Friends Board

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ANC 6D Update

By David Sobelsohn

Our Advisory Neighborhood Commission worked hard and accomplished much this past March and April. Here are some of the highlights.

Firehouse Project: For years, a parking lot has occupied the corner of E and 4th Streets, SW. The city will soon redevelop that corner as a new home for the fire station now at E and 6th Street. After the new fire station opens on 4th Street, a new office building will go up on the 6th Street site. In choosing a development team, the city relied on results of the May 2007 community roundtables organized by the Community Benefits Coordinating Council and co-sponsored by our ANC. This March, our ANC urged the city to award the development contract to a group that has set aside space for Kid Power DC—which organizes free activities for DC public-school students—and for DC Central Kitchen, which will use the space for job training and to operate a café all neighborhood residents can enjoy. In April the city followed our advice and awarded the contract to the team we recommended.

Festival Park: By May 1, Georgetown Events and Headfirst Sports plan to open a large open-air “Festival Park” at N and Half Streets, SE, across N Street from the Nationals’ centerfield gate. Festival Park will include food and alcohol sales, live music, and activities for children. On game days, admission will be free.

This April, the ANC voted to endorse a liquor license for the project, but with strict conditions—including job preferences for ANC 6D residents, a limit on the type of alcohol the Park can sell, and additional security restrictions proposed by 1D police commander David Kamperin.

Capper/Carrollburg Hope VI: Capper Carrollburg Venture and the DC Housing Authority are redeveloping a large portion of the near-Southeast part of our neighborhood to provide new mixed-income housing. Long ago, as part of the project, they promised to build a community center, to start construction in September 2009. Construction could

take 18 months. But now they want to delay starting construction until 2012. Our ANC finds such a long delay unacceptable. New residents deserve a place to congregate peacefully. Community centers reduce the crime rate and attract new residents. We support other aspects of the project. But we’re fighting this delay. We’re also fighting to make sure the project provides enough parking spots for home health care workers and other aides for seniors living there.

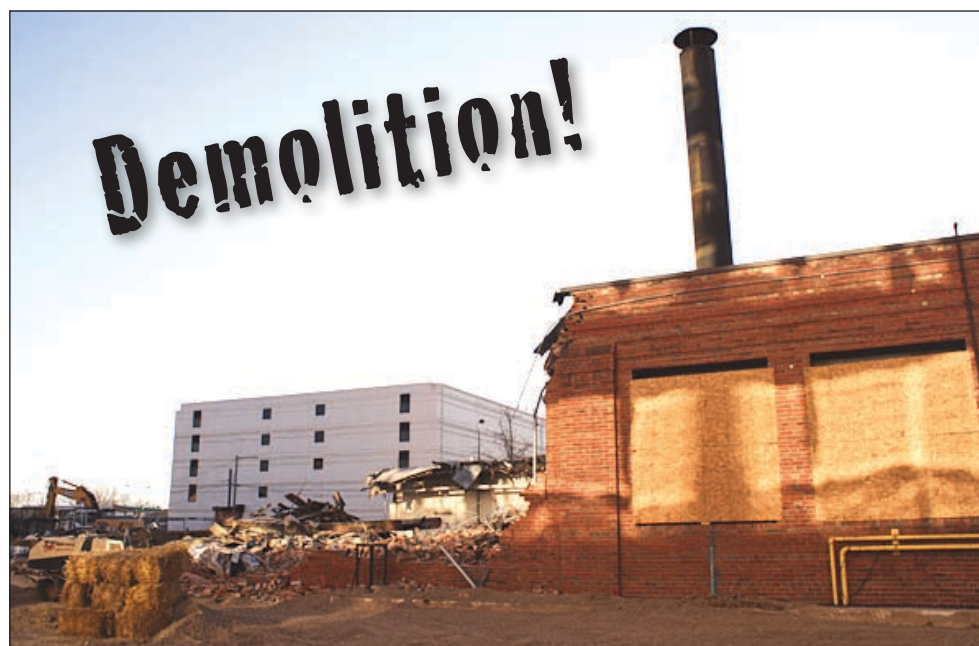
Arena Stage Renovation: We can all see the progress Arena Stage has made renovating their 6th Street home, scheduled to reopen in Fall 2010.

Arena played a leading role in the development of American theater, and we’re proud to have them in our neighborhood. In April the ANC voted to support Arena’s plans for perimeter paving, landscaping, curbs, gutters, driveways, and benches around its theaters, on condition that Arena work with the DC Urban Forestry Administration’s landscape architect to maximize the number of trees on 6th Street and Maine Avenue, SW.

Waterfront Station: We can also all see the progress Vornado and Charles E. Smith have made redeveloping the former site of the Waterside Mall, now called Waterfront Station. In March we heard an update. The developers expect to reopen 4th Street, SW, between January 1 and April 1, 2010, and to open the two new office buildings that March. Several important city agencies—including the Office of Planning and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs—will occupy most of the space in these buildings. But so far, the developers have only CVS and Safeway committed as retailers. For financial reasons, Vornado and Charles E. Smith have indefinitely postponed work on the two former Environmental Protection Agency towers—scheduled to become mixed-income housing—and on additional buildings planned as part of the project.

Greenleaf Gardens Grant: In April the ANC voted to appropriate \$485 to buy four lightweight plastic utility tables for the Greenleaf Gardens Mid-Rise Resident Council, 203 N Street, SW. The ANC will hold its next public business meeting starting 7 p.m. Monday, May 11 at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW.

David Sobelsohn is an ANC 6D Commissioner, and its Secretary.



Demolition of the former WMATA bus garage at Half and N Streets, SE. The lot will become a “Festival Park” offering refreshments during Nationals games. Ambitious plans for a mixed use building on the site are on hold.

DONATION

From p. 1

an overview of the organization, its overall accomplishments, and how efficiently it continues to operate. The bulk of RPF grants have supported educational activities, (60%,) with the remaining for community development (25%) and charity (15%). In 2008, she noted that “90% of RPF funds went directly to programs, with only 10% used for administrative costs.”

Grantees expressed appreciation at the meeting, and made compelling statements about the use of the grants, citing specific examples which captured the human element and spirit of their efforts. Presenters included Emma Ward of EmmaUS Learning Center, Rebecca Campana of Arena Stage, and many others.

Established in 1998 by four River Park

residents (thus the organization’s name), RPF is totally independent of River Park Mutual Homes. A 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, RPF’s mission is to enhance, promote, support and supplement community development, educational and charitable activities in near Southwest Washington by raising and distributing funds for the betterment of the Southwest community.

President Farlee noted that RPF welcomes contributions from residents and businesses and that “we need to maintain and build on our base of regular donors.” She further noted that “we are fortunate to have some members who regularly donate toward matching funds”. Contributions should be payable to River Park Friends and sent to President Coralie Farlee, 389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. For more information, please contact President Farlee at (202) 554-4407 or cfarlee@mindspring.com.

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FIRE STATION

From p. 1

of the Deputy Mayor’s Office to community concerns and their willingness to include us in the final deliberations to choose a developer for this site.

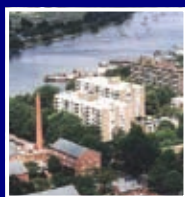
Jane Jorgensen is ANC6D Commissioner for District 01.



A green roof is planned for the red accented fire station building.



SWNA to Celebrate Women's Involvement in the Community



SWNA Report

By Peter Atlee

This month the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's community meeting will celebrate DC Emancipation Day and a belated Women's History Month. The meeting will be held at 7:30pm on April 27th in the sanctuary of St. Augustine's Church (6th St & M St SW). After first hearing a presentation on Emancipation Day and its history in our District, the majority of our meeting will be dedicated to celebrating the involvement of women in our community. A panel consisting of Rev. Ruth Hamilton (Westminster Church), Rev. Martha Clark (St. Augustine's Church), Dean Talaekah Brooks (Southeastern University), and Dr. E. Faye Williams (longtime activist) will speak and answer questions about their community work. We hope you will join us to celebrate these amazing women. Please note: Due to Memorial Day, May's community meeting will take place on May 18.

CBCC moving towards incorporation and planning community forum

For the past few months the newly constituted Southwest/Southeast Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) has continued its work to encourage community developers to take an active role in our community by committing to provide benefits to our neighborhood. The Council's work has focused on four priorities advocated by neighborhood residents at roundtable meetings in the summer of 2007. Those priorities are: (1) a community/workforce campus, (2) housing, (3) a community



New SWNA Board with Councilmember Tommy Wells

fund, and (4) neighborhood-oriented retail. The CBCC is preparing to conduct another community forum this summer; the forum will bring together community leaders and residents to discuss how, working together, we can ensure an appropriate quality of life for everyone in our neighborhood. The CBCC is also working with its pro bono lawyer (from Hunton & Williams) to prepare Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. For more information about the CBCC email Peter Atlee (CBCC Secretary) at peter.atlee@gmail.com.

After exciting election, SWNA settles down to work

I was honored to take the oath as Vice President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly on March 23 this year. Forty-six years after its creation, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly continues to serve the residents of Southwest, and, after last month's election, we are looking to build upon our past successes.

On March 21st, SWNA held its biennial election, with exciting results. Thanks,

in large part, to the hard work of former SWNA President Thelma Jones and ANC Commissioners Rhonda Hamilton and Ron McBee, the Nominations Committee put together a strong slate of candidates. The committee worked for months compiling a list of active residents and potential leaders to stand for election.

The Elections Committee and several community volunteers presided over an exciting election that included several races decided by only a few votes. Over 100 Southwest residents turned out to the Safe-way to have their voices heard and elect six new Board members.

As always, we were excited for races that aroused enough interest to bring out multiple candidates and engender contested races. We were equally excited to identify two new editors for The Southwester, a chair for the new Southeast Task Force, and a potential new business manager/consultant in the past few months.

March's community meetings both brought us back to our roots with a key-

note address from SWNA founder Neal Peirce and looked to the future with Councilmember Tommy Wells swearing in our new Board. With a complete and excited Board of Directors, the Assembly now goes to work.

Our promising new Board combines decades of experience from former Board members with the excitement and ingenuity of newly elected members. In just one month of service, our new members have outlined their goals and started taking steps to accomplish them. Don't be surprised to see them at multiple community meetings each week!

Of course, all of this energy is harnessed by our new President, Carolyn Mitchell, who did more than hit the ground running, she hit the ground sprinting. Mitchell plans to increase SWNA's accountability to the community and build relationships with new and existing groups—whether businesses or organizations or people. She has also asked District Representatives to hold regular meetings with their constituents and develop connections to ensure that we are always tied to and in touch with the people who elected us.

Together with her, I hope to make SWNA a more visible fixture of our community and the first contact for residents with concerns or suggestions.

The Assembly would like to thank all of the candidates who came out to serve their neighborhood and all the residents who came out to cast their votes. We hope to increase the number of candidates and voters in two years, and any residents interested in serving on the Nominations or Election Committee or in serving on the SWNA Board should let us know.

I look forward to working for you all over the next two years and welcome your comments and ideas as our neighborhood evolves and grows.

SW Sculptor to Appear at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church



Arts

By Elaine Graves

Mary Early, a sculptor working almost exclusively in wood and beeswax, will be featured at the Art & Spirit Coffeehouse, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. The free evening beings with coffee and desserts, followed by an audience Q & A, facilitated by Michael Mack, an interdisciplinary artist and thinker.

Mary, a Southwest native with a B.A. degree in visual arts from Vermont's Bennington College, describes her work as precise "measured, cut and assembled by hand" forms coated in several layers of beeswax to obtain their smooth and seamless surface.

"My work in the last few years concentrates...on forms I use in repetition to create

larger objects. I developed a hollow fluted shape constructed of wood...in multiples, stacked, and glued to create a mass...varying from a hoop shape that almost resembles a skirt to a dense circular ring that rests on the floor to an arch that begins at floor level and rises up to barely meet the wall."

Her recent works, *Untitled*, 2008 (wreath) and *Untitled*, 2007 (spokes) are assembled from delicate strips of wood laminated together to form triangular structures creating "spheres made up of physical material and negative space." Mary explains that her objects are "activated by the space they inhabit. Architecture and viewers introduce the vital elements of scale, perspective, and experience."

Her large, impressive sculptures have been favorably reviewed in numerous media, including *The Washington Post*, *Sculpture Magazine*, and "Around Town Art" on WETA/PBS television. In 2007, Mary Early placed as a finalist for the Bethesda Tawick Prize, and last year she was a semi-finalist. Her works have appeared in numerous group exhibitions in the metropolitan DC area as well as in Vermont and Massachusetts. Her most recent



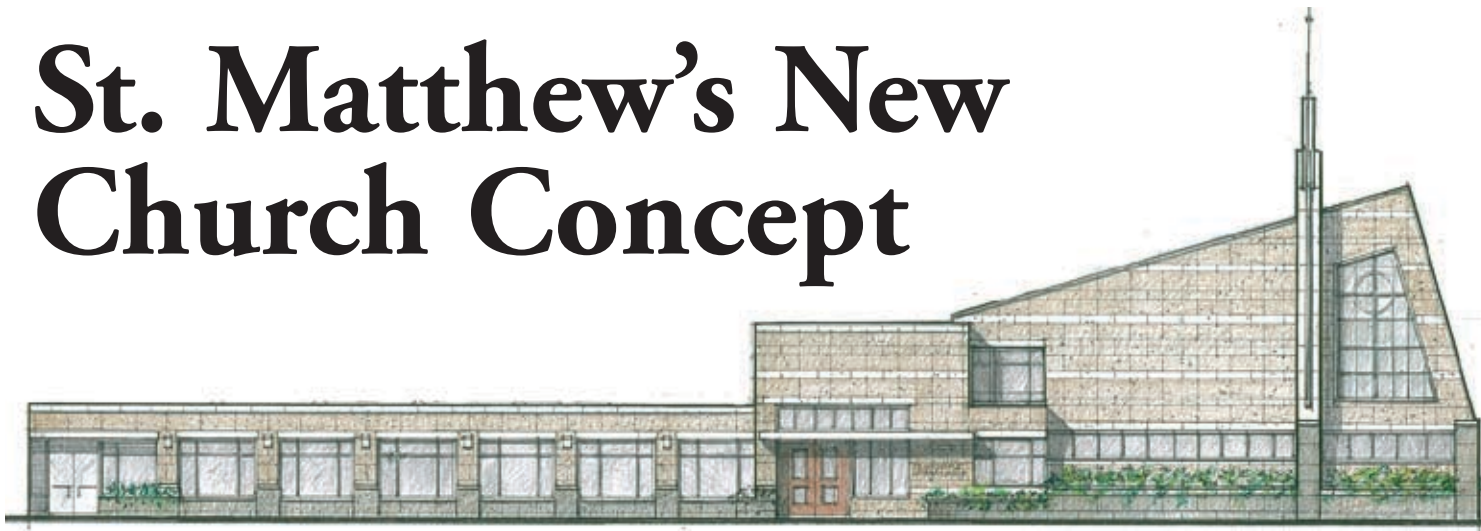
Untitled (arch), 2004-2006, wood, putty, beeswax. Image courtesy of the artist Mary Early and Hemphill Fine Arts

solo exhibit in October–November 2008 was *Mary Early: Sculpture*, 1275 Sculpture Series at 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.

Mary's sculptures are represented in the art collections of Alton Bird, LLP, and Dickstein, Shapiro, LLP in the District, Hotel Palomar (Kimpton Hotel properties) in Arlington, Va. and the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

The Southwest Episcopal Church's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine's. Donations will be accepted to help provide honorariums for the guest artists. St. Augustine's is located at 600 M Street, SW. Contact rector@staugustinesdc.org, 202-554-3222, or visit www.staugustinesdc.org for further information.

St. Matthew's New Church Concept



Renderings courtesy of Rev. Philip Huber, pastor of St. Matthew's. The M Street elevation is above, and the main floor plan is below.



Spiritual Life

By The Southwester Staff

The new church will be a 9900 square foot structure, 3000 more square feet than the former St. Matthews Lutheran Church on 3rd and M Streets. The building will face M Street and combine a green transition space with plenty of glass for light and transparency into the community. The exterior roof line and interior balcony line are duplicates of the angle of Delaware Avenue, which borders the east side of the property. The sanctuary will have a maximum height of two and half stories, with a steeple providing even more verticality. 7300 square feet of church office and community space will stretch eastward along M Street. Skylights will provide illumination to the lower floor, where additional community space and the fellowship hall are planned.

The project is in the design phase for the

Continued on Page 5

+ Spiritual Calendar +

Neighborhood Religious Services

Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of the Assemblies of God

60 I Street, SW
Sunday: 10:45 a.m.; Friday: Prayer and Bible Study: 8 p.m.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

600 M Street, SW
Sunday: 9 a.m.

St. Dominic Catholic Church

603 E Street, SW
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Spanish), and 5:15 p.m.
Weekdays: 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church

New Jersey Avenue, SE
Call 488 7298 for service times.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

22 M Street, SW (worshiping at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 4th Street, NW)
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

14 M Street, SE
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.: 12:10 p.m.

Second Baptist Church

1200 Canal Street, SW
Sunday: 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Riverside Baptist

7th Street and Maine Avenue, SW
Sunday: 10 a.m. with Bible Study at 9 a.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 I Street, SW
Sunday: 11 a.m.



Special Service for Thurgood Marshall

By Elaine Graves

On Sunday, May 17, the parishioners of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, will once again celebrate the life and legacy of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who along with his family became members of St. Augustine's in 1965 when they resided in southwest. His widow, Mrs. Cecilia Marshall, is still active in the parish and heads the Altar Guild, among other volunteer duties.

Plans for the day include a Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Bruce Eberhardt officiating as Celebrant and The Rev. Robyn Franklin-Vaughn, Episcopal Chaplain to Howard University, as Guest Preacher, followed by a buffet luncheon.

In 2006, the parishioners and Vestry members, led by The Rev. Bruce and Janet Eberhardt, presented a resolution to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC to place Justice Thurgood Marshall on the church's Sanctoral Calendar in the Book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts (LFF) to establish a yearly remembrance on May 17 throughout the Episcopal church of Justice Marshall's heroic commitment to Christ and the pursuit of justice. That resolution passed unanimously and was presented to the Episcopal Church's General Convention that will consider a second reading of the resolution at its summer 2009 meeting. One of the criteria considered is if there are widespread observances of the LFF candidates.

May 17 is proposed as the designated feast day to remember Justice Marshall's witness, because it is the anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, the 1954 landmark Supreme Court decision which declared segregated education in public schools unconstitutional.

For more information on the 1:30 p.m. unveiling of the Thurgood Marshall Call Box, see page 1.



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Letters

The Southwester's *Letters* section offers you a forum within which to express your opinions and interact with other community members. We welcome material sent to thesouthwester@yahoo.com. Since *The Southwester* is published by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, we do not endorse specific political candidates or legislation. Letters represent the opinions of their writers, not of *The Southwester* or the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

SE HOPE VI Community Center: A Distant Dream?

The Capitol Quarter neighborhood and its associated community center are currently under construction on the site of the former Capper-Carrollsbury public housing in Near Southeast. The new construction is being partially financed through a \$34.9 million federal HOPE VI grant. -Eds.

The issue at hand that the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) and its development partners are proposing to develop the second phase of the HOPE VI. They have requested a Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning modification to increase the density from the original plans by 102 units, including height and design variations and parking reduction, as well as push back the construction start of the Community Center to January 2012.

The ANC 6D in its March meeting motioned to support the increased density to support the development team due to the economic downturn, however requested parking concessions and recommended that construction start on the Community Center no later than January 2011, a reasonable adjustment to the proposed PUD modification plan.

The problem is that the delay in the Community Center as per DCHA is due to the following reasons that are not unique to DCHA, and which the Obama Administration has

addressed via the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the stimulus package: a) investment slow down in real estate industry, b) inability to issue a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) bond or multiple bond offerings due to tightening of the capital markets, c) access to interim financing.

The bottom line is that DCHA development team is moving forward on the development of the phase two without the Community Center, indicating that they feel confident to overcome the economic hurdles identified by them for the development of phase 2 except for the 18,000 SF Community Center, which is to include the career counseling offices, a computer training center, pre-school day care center, and other facilities for delivering community supportive services. This clearly indicates a lack of will by DCHA and its development team to give the same priority and commitment to a Community Center amenity as opposed to the retail and housing. Absent the will, the Community Center construction start will remain a distant dream come January 2012.

In consequence, the continued absence of the Community Center amenity will fail to address the social and educational needs of the residents and add to the distress and tensions (such as low educational levels, low wages, poverty, and crime especially in this economic downturn) that continue to plague the Southeast/Southwest neighborhood and its surrounding communities.

The Zoning Commission will take action on the PUD modification on April 27th at 6:30 PM at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. While the ANC 6D has presented its recommendation, it will take this "village" and a solid presence and voice of the near SE/SW community to convince the powers to be to enforce the promise by DCHA and its development team to deliver the Community Center and make it a reality.

—Vandana Sareen

For background information on the proposed community center, see the ANC6D Report on page 2. -Eds.

Editors' update: On Monday, April 27th, the Zoning Commission, in a compromise decision, voted for a July 1st 2010 deadline. However financing difficulties could bring the DC Housing Authority back to the Zoning Commission requesting an extension in the future.

CONCEPT

From p. 4

sanctuary building only. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) process will begin in the near future, but remaining plans for an additional residential component of the project are not yet ready. The concept presented is preliminary, and details may change. After the presentation, the congregation voted to accept the concept for their new church.

The complete future project will also include 180,000 square feet of residential space on the property. The development team is comprised of Tramwell Crow, CSG Urban Partners, and St. Matthew's itself, which has an equity interest and is a full partner on the team.

On Sunday, April 19th, after the St. Matthew's Lutheran worship at Trinity Lutheran, Judiciary Square, the congregation met for

the Basic Concept Design Presentation for their new church building on 3rd and M Streets, Southwest. This will be the first church construction in Southwest since the 1960's. The building will replace the celebrated, but structurally unsound church which was razed last year.

Architect Ken Warwick walked the participants through the provisional plans of the design concept. The project is in the design phase for the sanctuary building only. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) process will begin in the near future, but remaining plans for an additional residential component of the project are not yet ready. The concept presented is preliminary, and details may change. After the presentation, the congregation voted to accept the concept for their new church.

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SW Enjoys Festival, Fireworks



The Nationals' Presidents get down on the Waterfront.

By The Southwester Staff

An unpleasant morning of cold, windy spring showers greeted the planners of the evening's fireworks show that was to crown the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Festival as they awoke on Saturday, April 11. They feared months of planning for the annual fun-filled family-friendly pre-fireworks celebration might be washed down the drain.

But as the day wore on, the temperature rose, the winds died down, the weather

underlined by remarks from Col. Laura Richardson, garrison commander of the Fort Myer Military Community (which includes Fort McNair), and Capt. John Sears, C.O. Naval Support Activity Washington, as they emphasized the importance of the involvement of the military in such nonmilitary outside events. They also expressed their pleasure in hearing the U.S. Navy band and the Army's special unit "Down Range" and watching the presentation of colors by the Navy Ceremonial Guard.

This was indeed a family-friendly event, with lots of fun directed at both children and their elders. Ten pirates from "The Crew of the Apocalypse" posed for pictures, helped the Easter Bunny distribute a shipment of eggs and encouraged the crowd to write greetings on special cherry blossom cards to U.S. service personnel posted abroad..

Baseball fans expressed gratitude to the Washington Nationals for sending its mascot "Screech the Eagle" and "Presidents George, Tom, Abe,

and Teddy" to provide close-up contact and remind all that the start of the baseball season corresponds with the blooming of the cherry trees.

There was lots more, like opportunities to climb on board and captain the National Maritime Heritage Foundation's small schooner Spirit, build and sail seaworthy ships in a specially constructed pond, collect balloon art, make an origami crane, have a butterfly painted on one's face, and design a tee shirt.

Eventually, the events ended, the sky darkened, and a fabulous display of fireworks began.



An intrepid future captain of "The Spirit," the National Maritime Heritage Foundation schooner, which was available for boarding and "piloting" at the Prelude.

brightened, and the members of the Washington Waterfront Association, an umbrella organization comprising Southwest businesses, began to take heart. "After all," said WWA president Nancy Lain as she was interviewed on Channel 7, "this is the sixth year WWA has partnered with the National Cherry Blossom Festival to program several hours of musical entertainment and activities before the fireworks. Again this year, residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home will be our honored guests. We certainly don't want to disappoint them. And now we won't have to!"

The military connection was strongly

"I love what D.C. has to offer, especially at cherry blossom time!"

—Joy Acosta,
Lockport, Louisiana

"We are so excited to take part in giving attention to God's creation in such beautiful blooms."

—Calvin and Sylvia
Jones, Richmond, Virginia

"It's good to see everyone come together here as a community within the city, just like a small town."

—Lauren Richardson,
Arlington, Virginia

"I love it! Family and friends have joined us during the festival and they thoroughly enjoyed it."

—Karen and Tom
Anderson, Southwest
D.C.

"I've always wanted to see the cherry trees in bloom, and only ones we found today are at the prelude!"

—Janet Micca, Pompton
Plains, New Jersey

"After 17 years living in the area, this is my first visit to the cherry blooms. It's beautiful."

—Christie Bower,
Annapolis, Maryland

"Definitely on our list of things to do on a visit to D.C."

—Marie Cleary-Petillo,
West Point, New York

"It's really good and awesome!"

—Cason Mandigo,
Gangplank Marina,
Southwest, D.C.
(11 years old)

"We feel so blessed for the great weather and out pouring of goodwill both to and from this community"

—Barbara Erlich, Southwest, D.C., Secretary,
National Cherry Blossom Festival

"One of my favorite festival events is here on the Waterfront, due to the fabulous community spirit of Southwest."

—Diana Mayhew,
President of the National
Cherry Blossom Festival

CALL BOX ART

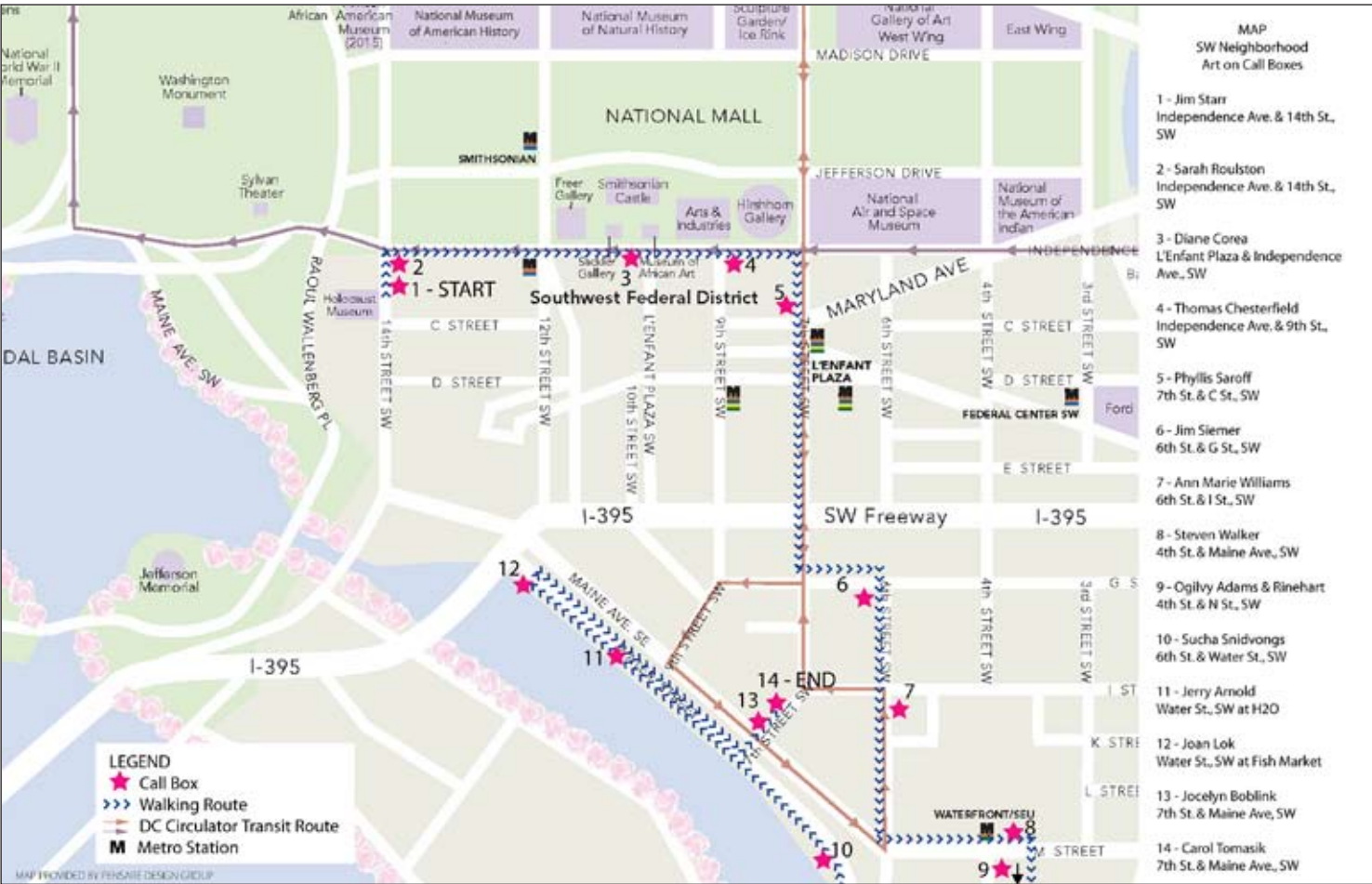
From p. 1

in a few weeks when our Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) partners with members of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church to unveil a call box dedicated to Justice Thurgood Marshall who lived in Southwest DC at the time he was named by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Supreme Court. Cecilia "Cissy" Marshall, the widow of Thurgood Marshall, will be the honored guest at the unveiling to take place on Sunday, May 17th at 1:30 pm, at a call box close to the Marshall home at the 100 block of G Street SW.

Fittingly, the unveiling will take place on the 55th anniversary of the ruling in the United States Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, which ended school segregation. Recognizing his heroic achievements will demonstrate our community's appreciation of Thurgood Marshall's tremendous gifts, not only to his nation, but to his neighborhood.

We already have a magnificent international airport named for Justice Marshall in the Washington area, but our neighborhood Thurgood Marshall Call Box will be a life-sized legacy for a man who lived in Southwest and who spoke for the voiceless.

Supreme Court Justice Marshall's call box will represent to our youth his dreams, concerns, his insights about the country into which he was born, and his pursuit of justice and equality for all. Again, a simple call box stands as a symbol of our neighborhood identity.



Map of newly dedicated call boxes. Funded by the Friends of River Park.



*From the entire Hoffman-Struever Waterfront Team,
we would like to thank the Southwest community
for all the support over the last 2 years. We look
forward to working with everyone to create a
wonderful world-class waterfront neighborhood!*

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Washington, DC

1000 New Cherry Trees in Southwest: A Green (and Pink) Community Initiative

By Glenn Favreau

Every April, Southwest Washington is bejeweled by millions of delicate blooms of the Yoshino Cherry. Southwest is the proud home of the



Yoshino Cherry Tree (*Prunus x yedoensis*).
Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

majority of some 3,500 trees in capital. Most of the flowering trees are on federal land and are cared for by the National Park Service. Some efforts have been made in the past to extend the presence of the trees in other places in our neighborhood, but such efforts are sporadic and not all have been successful.

Our neighborhood is now in the midst of renewal and development not seen for some 40 years. This time around, the plans are to make our waterfront and surrounding areas a world class destination. The time is right for new efforts to make the Cherry Blossoms a part of our growing community once again.

I would like to launch a challenge to all of us: plant 1000 Cherry Trees in Southwest in the next ten years. This would not be a government effort, but rather a collaboration between developers and community organizations. The Cherry Blossoms can spread throughout our neighborhood in the new and renewed green spaces that are being planned right now. I present this challenge to all of the residents of Southwest. Please contact me at swcherryblossoms@yahoo.com with your ideas and suggestions. As this initiative develops, the Southwester will report on it in future issues.

Urban Forestry Brings Trees and Advice to Southwest

By the Southwester Staff

As their recently planted trees come to life on the streets of Southwest, the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT's) Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is looking to work with neighborhoods across the city to preserve the city's tree canopy.

Simoun Banua, official with the District administration, recently presented this idea to our Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC6D, at their April business meeting. Urban Forestry is responsible for trees in sidewalk-to-curb planting, medians, and, as of last year, D.C. Parks. It is a daunting task, which Banua admits is tough to cover with their limited staff. The recent addition of a landscape architect to the Administration personnel is intended to help alleviate this problem.

In developing neighborhoods, Urban Forestry seeks to preserve existing trees and aid in the planting of new ones. Developers who



Redbud tree at the corner of 6th and I Streets, planted a few months ago by Urban Forestry.

remove mature trees must pay fines and replacement costs into the Administration's tree fund if they do not replace the trees. Since Urban Forestry's involvement in tree removal permit applications comes well after ANC involvement in project planning, Banua stressed the need for the ANC to try to preserve mature trees when developers first present their projects. When Commissioners expressed disappointment concerning the lack of communication with the Administration in the past, Banua promised much more effort on his part to collaborate with our

neighborhood in these efforts.

In answer to a specific question concerning the Waterfront Station Project, Banua stated that Urban Forestry has been in contact with the developers and have approved the permit for tree removal to facilitate the extension of 4th Street at I Street. He also said that they are talking to the developers about the stretch of 4th Street to M Street and the tree planting that will happen there.

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A Guilt-Free Chocolate Fix?



Fitness and Nutrition

By Derrick Inglut

Just when you feel you've got your diet under control, around comes some family function, holiday or outing with friends that completely screws up all your hard work. In this case it's Easter. If your sweet tooth is anything like mine, this is going to be the ultimate test of self-control.



Though I made it through Easter OK without buying various bags of chocolates from CVS, now is about the time when all of those chocolates go on clearance. Partially, I blame it on my mother who taught me as a kid to be a smart shopper and buy in bulk when the price is lowest. The rest I blame on god for giving me such a sweet tooth!

Many times I've tried to rationalize with myself that somehow this is a great deal and I can always tuck these delicious little candies away for when company or kids come over, or maybe just have one and save the rest for later — but deep inside, I knew I was only fooling myself.

The chocolate cravings you and I get do not necessarily come from sugar or taste; they can come from a drug called Theobromine. Also known as Xanthine, it is a cousin of Caffeine. Theobromine is an alkaloid derived mainly from the Cacao plant, but has been noted in smaller amounts in the kola nut, tea plant, and Acai berry. Its effects are milder than its cousin



Theobromine Powder

and can affect one's mood, sense of satisfaction and well being. Like caffeine, it is a powerful appetite suppressant. A typical chocolate bar may have anywhere from .05-2.7% Theobromine content, depending on whether or not the chocolate is milk or dark.

Theobromine has been used in the past for circulatory problems including arteriosclerosis, certain vascular diseases, angina pectoris, and hypertension. Today, its uses in medicine have expanded as a vasodilator, CNS stimulant, a diuretic, and heart stimulant. Theobromine has even been documented to prevent some types of cancer.

The great thing about our modern age is that there are supplements for just about everything. I take quite a few supplements myself and wondered if this was one I could add to my anti-aging, fat reducing, health promoting arsenal. I was in luck. Theobromine can be supplemented in the form of capsules

containing Cacao extract. These small capsules contain around anywhere from 2-10% Theobromine by weight and are inexpensive to purchase.

Upon looking for this "must have" supplement, I noticed one seller peddling raw 25X Cacao extract, claiming an ultra potent 22% Theobromine by weight. Though it was significantly more expensive than the capsules, gram for gram it was the cheapest way to get my fix of Theobromine.

It arrived about one month later, a bit late, but a kilo of raw Cacao powder coming from Guatemala was certainly going to grab customs attention. Better late than never I say. I've been putting a teaspoon in my protein shakes every other day and sometimes in my coffee. It has an astoundingly rich, dark flavor, similar to black coffee, with a slightly burned after taste. It does make a great cup of mocha. I've only been using it for about 10 days and no cravings yet — all the effects of chocolate, with none of the sugar or calories. Success!

Derrick Inglut is a personal trainer who writes on exercise and nutrition. You can visit his website at derrickinglut.com.



Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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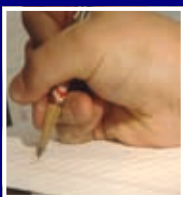
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Kids & Schools

The SouthWest Comm-Unity Forum (SWCF) took 19 Ward 6 children, 7 girls and 12 boys, to the Deep Creek Lake and Resort located in Deep Creek, MD on April 3 for a two day youth retreat. The youth attended power sessions on etiquette, wellness, financial discipline, ethics and values, "going green," college preparation and more. In attending these power sessions we, SWCF, believe that the youth have learned and demonstrated teamwork, proper hygiene, eating etiquette, financial discipline and a daily exercise routine, in addition to focusing on higher education.

Below, seated: Paul Taylor, Executive Director SWCF; Danny March, Chaperone. Standing, L-R: Tony McCarty, Chaperone; Lee Jones, Vice President, SWCF; Kimberly Douglass, Secretary SWCF; April Hines, Facilitator; Cheryl Hanberry-Moore, Chaperone; Charmin Minor, Entertainment Chair SWCF; Justin Edwards, Chaperone.

Below right, L-R: Janelle Foster, Maya Vann, Alexis Franklin, Karita Watkins Dahniquea Gray, Tantania Brown, Brittney Campbell.



Above, L-R: Benjamin Jones, William Jones, Leonard Campbell, Antonio Jefferson, kawan Bowen, Adrian Wade, Daquawn Paige, Laffette Copeland, Antwan Gray, Paul Taylor Jr., Brandon Bostick)



By Meg Brickman

Our Southwest Community made sure that students and faculty had a good start Monday, April 20th, the first day of the four days of testing mandated by "No Child Left Behind (NCLB)" known as "DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS)." Students in 3rd through 5th grades were tested. Faculty and staff of Amidon-Bowen High Tech Campus were treated to a breakfast on the first day of testing and students got snacks for the break during the three-hour testing schedule each day. Generous donations by Safeway, Potbelly

Sandwiches and IslandStyle Caterers made this possible. ANCD Commissioner, Ron McBee and Harbour Square Community Affairs member, Meg Brinckman facilitated the project.

Amidon Elementary has failed to make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in both Reading and Math for the past four years. The 2008 AYP target for Reading was 60.53% proficient and the Math target was 55.21% Proficiency. The targets have

increased since inception of NCLB in 2003 from 30.3% for Reading and 38.4% for Math. Bowen Elementary made the target in Reading in 2008 with a score of 63.21% and showed 17% improvement in Math with a score of 41.51%.

Each DC Public School or Charter School is assigned a NCLB status based on its performance on the DC CAS. Merging schools take on the status of the receiving school, thus making the combined school,

Amidon-Bowen designated as needing "Corrective Action" based on the Amidon record.

Ms Almeta Hawkins, who led Bowen to its successful performance in 2008, has brought the same conviction that every child can learn, a competent, hardworking staff, and a large number of volunteer tutors and mentors from Everybody Wins and others to the job of improving performance at Amidon-Bowen. Final results of the testing will not be available until mid summer. However, preliminary practice testing gives reason for optimism.

Recipe For Success

Nationals News



Sports

High School Initiative

The Washington Nationals have launched their 2009 DC Public High School Initiative, which will bring local high school students and teams into Nationals Park.

The first part of the program is to invite 12 specific District High School Baseball Team to hold one two-hour practice at Nationals Park at no cost. Cardozo Senior High School, Dunbar High School and Roosevelt Senior High School have already scheduled their practices.

"The Washington Nationals are thrilled to provide our field for the High School baseball players who may one day wear our uniform," said Nationals President Stan Kasten. "This is a unique opportunity for the city's young athletes to spend a few hours on a Major League ballfield. In addition, through our wide-spread ticket donation program, we are pleased to invite each public high school

to enjoy their own very night at Nationals Park."

In a second part of the initiative, all public high schools have been invited to choose one home game to be billed as their night at Nationals Park. Students and faculty will get free tickets and the school will be recognized as part of a pre-game recognition ceremony. This two part initiative will be complimented by equipment drives and grants to be shared among the District Public High School Athletic Departments.

Military Nights

The Washington Nationals have planned six military nights this season to honor the Nation's Armed Forces during the pre-game ceremonies. Military personnel will be able to

buy discounted tickets for these games. The first Military night was held on April 16.

New Artwork Unveiled

New public works of art located in the Nationals Park Center Field Plaza and at the Home Plate Gate were unveiled during a public ceremony on Wednesday, April 8. Three sculptures were unveiled, of Washington Senators Frank Howard and Walter Johnson, and Homestead Grays player Josh Gibson, created by Omri Amrany. "The Ballgame," a suspended artwork by Walter Kravitz was also introduced. All pieces were commissioned by the DC Creates Public Arts Program and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) in collaboration with the Washington Nationals Baseball Club, the DC Sports & Entertainment Commission (DCSEC) and HOK Sport.

The ceremony was emceed by baseball historian and MASN contributor Phil Wood. Program participants included the artists, and representatives from the DCCA, DCSEC and Washington Nationals Baseball Club. Sean Gibson (the great-grandson of Josh Gibson), Frank Howard, and Carolyn Johnson Thomas and Hank Thomas, (the daughter and grandson of Walter) were present for the event.



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Southwest Community Calendar April 21 - May 24, 2009

TUE., APR. 21, 6:30-8:30pm: Anacostia Waterfront Forum, Green Living, MLK Library, Great Hall, 901 G St, NW

THU., APR. 23, 7-8:30pm: Police Service Area (PSA) Monthly Meeting, Riverside Condominium Apts Community Room, 1435 4th St., SW

SAT., APR. 25, 10:30-12noon: Washington DC CROP Hunger Walk, begins at Christ United Methodist Church, 4th and I Sts. SW

MON., APR. 27, 7:30pm: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Public Meeting, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW. Emancipation Day Presentation, Women in Our Community panel.

WED., APRIL 29, 7:30pm: The SW Chamber Players Concert (free), St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW

THURS., APRIL 30, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

FRI, MAY 1, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

FRI., MAY 1, 7:30pm: The SW Chamber Players presents the Klavier Trio Amsterdam, admission \$20. St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW

SAT., MAY 2, Nationals Home Game 1:05 p.m.

SUN, MAY 3, Nationals Home Game 1:35 p.m.

MON., MAY 4, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

TUES., MAY 5, Nationals Home Game 12:35 p.m.

TUES., MAY 5, 7:00 PM: CAC meeting at the new First District Station located at 101 M Street SW.

TUE., MAY 8, 6-8pm: Employment Preparation Workshop, Second Baptist Church, 1st and M, SW

WED, MAY 9, 9am-2pm: Job Training and Resource Fair, Second Baptist Church, 1st and M, SW

MON., MAY 11, 7pm: ANC6D Business Meeting at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

FRI., MAY 15, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

SAT., MAY 16, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

SUN., MAY 17, Nationals Home Game 1:35 p.m.

MON., MAY 18, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

MON., MAY 18, 7:30pm: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Public Meeting

TUES., MAY 19, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

WED., MAY 20, Nationals Home Game

7:05 p.m.

WED., MAY 20, 7 p.m. The Near South-east/Southwest Community Benefits Coordinating Council Board of Directors meeting, Syphax Village Condominium - Community Room, 1322 Half St., SW.

THURS., MAY 21, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

FRI., MAY 22, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

SAT., MAY 23, Nationals Home Game 7:05 p.m.

SUN., MAY 24, Nationals Home Game 1:35 p.m.

SUN., MAY 31, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk to Cure Diabetes, Nationals Park. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS – First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS – Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm.

SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS – Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 – noon.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB – First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 7 pm

202-291-6229.

S.W. KIWANIS – First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS – Every Wed. GSA Bldg – 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

LABYRINTH WALK – First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 8-9:30 pm preceded by Yoga Nidra at 7:00 pm. on the first Wed. & Tai Chai at 7 pm on second, third & fourth Wed.

WEDNESDAYS AT 3 pm – Practice GED test – free – takes 4-1/2 hrs; walk in at SW Library, between 3rd & 4th St., between I (Eye) and K SW, second floor; picture ID required. 727-6976 or 727-1616 (M, T, Th, F).

SATURDAYS SAFETY WALKERS – Safety Walkers meet for community walks at 800 4th St. SW. Contact saadenterprise@msn.com.

WEDNESDAYS COMEDY NIGHT at Capitol Skyline Hotel, 10 I St., SW

FRIDAYS JAZZ NIGHT, Westminster Church, 400 I St., SW, 6-9pm.

EVENING OF POETRY, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place, SW, 2nd Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm (202) 724-4752.

Please submit calendar items for May events to voice mail – 202-554-8560 or by email to thesouthwester@yahoo.com by Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

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